



(1) Acknowledgement

The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) executed an agreement with the U. S. Department of Education to accept funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and American Rescue Plan (ARP). UVI has, and will continue to use, the funds designated under each program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants and other assistance to its students.

(2) Funds Received

As of March 31, 2021, UVI received total funds of \$1,713,738 for student needs.

(3) Funds Distributed

As of March 31, 2021, UVI distributed \$1,483,992 of that amount directly to students.

(4) Eligible Students

There were approximately 1,500 students eligible for CARES Act funding during the Spring 2021 term.

(5) Students Who Received Aid

During the Spring 2021 term, about 1,500 students received funds totaling about \$754,800.

(6) Funding Methodology

UVI returned the \$75 graduation fee to 3 students.

UVI distributed a \$500 technology award to about 1,500 students.

UVI convened a Compelling Circumstances Committee that allowed students to submit applications for additional funding through the CARES Act.

(7) Instructions, Direction, and Guidance

Students who face unusual and compelling financial losses due to COVID-19 were able to submit requests and be eligible for additional special support for demonstrated genuine increased expenditures and hardships. Students completed an online application in which they provided information on their circumstances, as well as any supporting documentation. A three-person Administrative panel regularly met and reviewed all information received, including a student's

financial aid and Pell grant eligibility or recipient status, and the panel made final decisions and recommendations. Some examples of an unusual and compelling financial loss or hardship are the loss of a job due to COVID-19 that the student planned to use to pay tuition or other costs of attendance; unusual medical expenditures or healthcare including mental health related to the pandemic; documented housing expenditures because a student was unable to live at home due to the pandemic; increased childcare expenses as a result of remote learning; and learning tools or equipment needed for persistence in class, etc.